

Oct. 26 1945

Dr. J. B. Martin
410 E. 47th St.
Chicago Ill

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Dear Friend:

I have just finished talking to Tom, and decided to write you instead of calling you again. The matter is important enough to rate a phone call, but I deducted from the tone of Tom's conversation that he had been talking to Posey and Gottlieb, and I am sure he will hesitate to do anything without talking to them. I told him I had called you on the phone as a result of a call I had from the Chairman of Mayor LaGuardia's committee in New York City. I feel that this man is in a position to do a great deal. After all he is speaking for New York City. Tom seems to feel he wants to talk to Com. Chandler. (Confidentially, and off the record, I am sure Chandler will not have the power Landis had.)

Now this Negro, Rev. John Johnson, Chairman of La Guardias Comm., is one of the finest people you could ever hope to meet. I am sure his big concern is The Negro Race, and there well-being. This means Negro baseball as well as the ball players. I told him I was sure all the owners in our baseball would be glad to see the men advance and get all the money they could during their baseball days, but I also felt we should be compensated for any lose we might suffer by having them taken from us. He agreed with me 100%, and I believe he is ready to demand just that as the Chairman of The Mayors Committee, but some one in authority in our baseball must present our side of the story. Rev. Johnson said he will be glad to arrange a meeting with the President of The National League, Mr Frick, and Mr Rickey, and all themembers or just representatives of our Negro Baseball to discuss the matter, and decide to right thing to do. It is up to us now to arrange to meet with him. If you want to contact Rev. Johnson directly, his phone no. is Lehigh 4-4531.

Tom promised me he would telephone you right after talking to me. I hope he did, but as I said I could tell he had been talking to Posey and Gottlieb, and I am afraid Posey would assume an attitude of indignation, and Gottlieb one of fear. You as Chairman are on the spot. Not only the future of Negro Baseball is in question, but upon the outcome of this problem a lot of questions may be decided. You can write Rev. Johnson c/o ST. Martins Church 12th and Lenox Ave. NYC. I think we should act quickly, as ther may be a lot to do. Please let me hear from you

Sincerely